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Jordanians go to the polls today to elect 12th Parliament

King, premier reaffirm vow to ensure integrity of elections

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordanians go to the polls today in the Kingdom's first multiparty elections, reaffirming what many observers and diplomats describe as the irreversible course of democratisation that His Majesty King Hussein launched four years ago.

While the electorate seemed unresponsive to efforts by hardliners to turn the elections into an unofficial referendum on the Middle East peace process, the outcome of the polls, however, is seen as crucial to the follow-up of the recent breakthroughs, in the two-year-old Arab-Israeli peace negotiations (see separate story on predictions).

King Hussein, who has made no secret of his drive to turn Jordan into a model state based on freedom, democracy and human rights in the Middle East, has promised what is expected to be a repeat of the 1989 polls — the fairest and freest elections in the Arab World.

While at least 10 of the 20 political parties of all shades and colours licensed since the formal lifting in September 1992 of a 1957 ban on political groups are fielding candidates, some have opted to run "independents" and others did not enter the electoral race at all.

The elections are also the first since the introduction of a one-person, one-vote system in August this year, and, as such, predicting the outcome with

any degree of accuracy is a very difficult process.

Observers expect not much of a dramatic change in the political line-up in Parliament from the make-up in the previous one. Barring last-minute surprises, the powerful Islamic Action Front (IAF), arguably the most organised party in the Kingdom, is expected to win 19 seats in the 80 parliamentary seats contested by 336 candidates, including three women (see separate story on predictions).

An opinion poll conducted by the Centre for Strategic Studies of the University of Jordan early this year showed that a majority of Jordanians would opt for candidates who would serve the society's needs in terms of infrastructure and services rather than those who raise lofty slogans and promises which they cannot fulfil.

Hardships of daily life in a country with a foreign debt representing 140 per cent of the gross domestic product and the resulting unemployment and poverty were seen to have been the preoccupations of a majority of the voters.

The King, who on Saturday called on the voters to turn out en masse and vote for moderation and dedication, paid a last-minute inspection visit yesterday to the Ministry of Interior to be briefed about the arrangements in place for today's balloting process and vote-counting.

The Jordan News Agency, Petra, said Minister of Interior Salameh Hammad briefed the

King on the preparations and His Majesty expressed satisfaction with the arrangements.

It also quoted the King as calling on the ministry to provide all facilities to the voters to exercise their right to elect their representatives in Parliament in a free and fair atmosphere.

The King also paid a visit to the headquarters of the Public Security Department (PSD) and met with its chief, Major General Abdul Rahman Al Adwan, and senior officers for a review of the security arrangements for the elections.

Officials said while no serious violation of the law and order was expected, the police force has been put on high alert for 72 hours starting Sunday to ensure the smooth running of the process.

Separately, Prime Minister Abdul Salam Al Majali also visited the Ministry of Interior for a review of the election arrangements.

In a statement to Jordanian Television, Dr. Majali reiterated promises that the elections would be free, democratic and fair. He also said the authorities had adopted all necessary measures to ensure that no one would be able to tamper with the balloting process.

Dr. Majali, who is expected to vote in his hometown in Karak, called on all citizens to cast their votes and "elect efficient people who could serve the country best."

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His Majesty King Hussein Sunday with Interior Minister Salameh Hammad at the ministry (Petra photo)

Campaign gathered late steam, focused little on substantive issues

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Last-ditch appeals by some 530 candidates contesting Jordan's first multi-party elections in over three decades yesterday ended a largely provincial electoral campaign that only managed to pick up steam in the last few days.

About 70 per cent of the 1.203 million registered voters who have collected their voting cards are expected to take part in electing the country's 80-member 12th Parliament from among candidates who hardly touched on the major political and economic issues affecting the country in three weeks of campaigning.

Indications are that the 12th Parliament will be largely dominated by mainstream figures and personalities who won their election bids on tribal credentials and campaign promises rather than on political platforms.

The new Election Law which replaced the bloc-voting system with the one-person, one-vote formula has been an important factor in forcing political issues out of the electoral race for the support of the 1,514 million registered voters.

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Jordan Times reporters conclude analysis of candidates and campaigns in all districts

Tafileh could be won by new faces

By Mariam M. Shahin
and Ghazi Amryeen
in Tafileh

A turbulent campaign, in which "regular" clan members have been fighting the more politicised candidates, has left the people in this southern city with the impression that three brand new deputies could represent them in the next Lower House of Parliament.

Disappointment with the performance of the three deputies elected in 1989 has largely characterised the mood of voters in this district of some people 120,000. The votes are split between four major rural towns, with about 24,000 registered voters, and the urban population of

the city of Tafileh, which has some 12,000 registered voters. The turn out in 1989 was 76 per cent among those who had collected their voting cards, but this time the figure is expected to be higher.

"There is today more inter-

tribal competition and stronger desire on the part of the urbanites to get their candidates elected to parliament," said Najib Daoudieh, brother and campaign manager of Tafileh candidate Mohammad Daoudieh. "We thus believe that the turn out will be higher."

Observers here believe that the voters will bring about a change this time, by electing less conservative and nevertheless traditional and tribally representative fi-

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North Jordan Valley up for grabs

By Suhaib Obeidat
and Nasser Shraydeh
in Kourab

THE NORTHERN Jordan Valley and Kourab, in ancient times crossroad for trade routes, feels betrayed by years of government neglect and wants deputies able to address its immediate needs and improving the level of services there. The district and its inhabitants want to be no more the sleepy agricultural area that it has been at the northernmost end of the rift valley.

The 19 candidates contesting the two Muslim seats allocated for this district of some 64,000 voters, which is

part of the Irbid Governorate, two are former deputies: Abdul Majed Shraydeh (who also served as minister of social development) and Nader Thuhairat.

The Islamic Action Front (IAF) is fielding two candidates, Abdul Aziz Shraydeh (Abdul Majid's uncle) and Ahmad Khatib, both from Kourab, which has 28,224 registered voters.

Compared to the northern Jordan Valley, allegiance to tribal affiliations in Kourab is poor. The number of families is large, but the size of each family is relatively small and candidates have to do a lot of lobbying among their immediate families and distant relatives in order to win

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Ajloun's could be closest race

By Mariam M. Shahin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

THE DISTRICT of Ajloun, some 70 kilometres north of Amman, is likely to witness some of the closest and most unpredictable election results of any other part in the Kingdom. Twenty-nine candidates are vying for three seats, two Muslim and one Christian in a 43,000-strong electorate.

Of the 140,000 inhabitants of the Ajloun district, most live in a dozen large towns that surround Ajloun. Many of these have more registered voters than the city of Ajloun itself and most of the 29 candidates are from the boroughs rather than from Ajloun city itself.

The tribal vote will be the overriding criteria in these elections as they were in 1989," said a local observer.

In the 1989 elections, three tribal candidates — Ahmad Annab, Abdul Salam Freihat and Jamal Haddad — received 5,280, 4,473 and 2,855

votes respectively. All three are running for reelection.

The minimum number of votes that a candidate must receive today in order to win has been estimated by observers in Ajloun at 4,000.

With the exception of Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate Deifallah Al Momani and Ahmad Al Momani and Ahmad Salem Al Momani from the town of Sakra with a voting population of 3,431, are also running. Thus, although the Momani clan could easily vote in a member of their clan with 7,000, the split in the clan has weakened their chances.

The lack of consensus on

tribal candidates is likely to

create not only split votes but close votes as well.

There are a total of 10 towns where anywhere from 2,000 to 8,000 votes will be cast. In these voting centres there are eight Christian candidates contesting one

seat and 21 Muslims vying for two seats.

Although Ajloun is socially conservative, politicised Islam has spawned limited routes here in the past; but the presence of a strong tribal candidate who is running on the IAF ticket may change that equation.

Mr. Momani and Ahmad Al Momani are being fielded from Irbid, a town which has 3,453 registered voters. Two other members of the Momani clan, Mohammad Saad Saleem Al Momani and Mohammad Salem Al Momani from the town of Sakra with a voting population of 3,431, are also running.

Thus, although the Momani clan could easily vote in a member of their clan with 7,000, the split in the clan has weakened their chances.

But a last-minute consensus by the clan could reverse its fortunes and propel one of

(Continued on page 5)

Centrists, traditionalists expected to form majority in new Lower House

IAF projected to win 19 seats, independent Islamists several more, and leftists some more

By Jordan Times Staff Reporters

AMMAN — Jordan today will elect a new parliament. Some 800,000 voters are expected to choose 80 deputies from about 530 candidates, who range in outlook and political ideology from the far left to the extreme right. Most of those who will win their seats, however, are expected to be from the centre of the political spectrum: right-and left-of-centre mainstream politicians, traditional figures and tribal representatives.

On the right, religious politicians, mainly represented by the Islamic Action Front (IAF), could win up to 29 seats, but only if there is a huge swing in their favour. Their strength could, on the other hand, go down to 13 representatives in the new Lower House of Parliament should there be a swing to the left and centre by the electorate. What is largely expected, though, is that the IAF will win about 19 seats, down from 23 that the Muslim Brotherhood, the core of the IAF, won in the 1989 elections (see table below).

The elected IAF candidates, who will form the opposition, will be backed by several independent Islamists, who might or might not put their weight behind the political platform of the Muslim Brotherhood Movement, whether on the issue of peace negotiations with Israel or the economic programme of the country, among others.

The independent Islamists can be divided between hardliners, of whom no more than a few are expected to be elected, and moderates, who have in the past participated in various governments, without the Brotherhood's consent, blessing or support.

The first group includes former deputies, like Ali Faqir, who is a strong contender in Amman's First District, and candidates running for the first time like Theib Abdallah (also a strong contestant in the First District) and Abdul Majid Al Aqash in Madaba. The other group includes moderate Islamists who could be associated with the IAF, but are not running on its platform or under its umbrella, like Abdul Razzak Tbeishat (in Irbid), Mohammad Alawneh (also in Irbid), Atef Boush (in Karak), and Abdul Bagi Jammo in Zarqa.

Leftists with a good chance of winning include Faris Nabulsi (Amman's Third District), Fakhri Qawar (Christian, Third District), Yaacob Zayad (Christian, Third District), Hussein Mijalli (Jeraish), Mansour Murad (Irbid), Circassian, Third District, Hosni Shiyah (Irbid), Mohammad Daoudieh (Tafileh), Bassam Haddadin (Christian, Zarqa), Jamil Nimir (Christian, Irbid), Samit Habashneh (Karak), Mustapha Sbeikat (Balqa).

A number of Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), mainly Fatah, activists could also win a few seats; these include Ibrahim Shihadeh (Balqa), Fahd Bayyari (Second District), and Mahmoud Basbawi (Khourab).

While not all leftists and pan-Arabs would join the Islamists in their opposition to a peace deal with Israel, none of the Palestinians who may win seats could be expected to join an opposition front with the Brotherhood on that issue.

An imminent swing to either the left or right does not appear to be in the offing. But only final results can be the final judge on this. By tomorrow, we will know exactly what happened. Analyses will follow.

(Continued on page 4)

Libya accuses Western allies of not cooperating with U.N.

TRIPOLI (Agencies) — Libya has accused the U.S., Britain and France of not cooperating with U.N. efforts to settle the Lockerbie suspects dispute and warned that toughening U.N. sanctions would not affect Libya's determination.

The official JANA news agency Saturday denounced what it called a "lack of cooperation" on the part of Washington, London and Paris and said they had provided "no help" to U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Ghali in his various attempts to negotiate to way out of the crisis.

JANA said that the West had chosen to "discuss technical points" rather strive to "work out a settlement under international conventions."

The JANA report, broadcast on Libyan Television, came as the U.N. Security Council prepared to toughen sanctions next week against Libya which has so far refused to hand over two men suspected of involvement in the bombing of a U.S. airliner over Scotland in December 1988.

The new sanctions, which could include a freeze on Libyan assets abroad, would come on top of an air and military embargo imposed in April 1992.

The U.N. has ordered Tripoli to hand over the two men to Britain or the United States for trial in connection with the bomb aboard a Pan

Airliner which crashed in the Scottish town of Lockerbie killing a total of 270 people.

Libya has refused to comply saying the men would not get a fair trial in either country.

France also wants Libya to cooperate in investigations into the bombing of a French UTA DC-10 in 1989 over Niger in which 170 people were killed.

In Cairo Saturday, Libya's permanent envoy to the Arab League, Ibrahim Al Bashir, said Libya would "not change its mind" even if sanctions were toughened. He said "hundreds of people" had already died as a result of the air embargo which had also "damaged industry and agriculture."

On Thursday, Libyan leader Colonel Muammar Qadhafi said at a press conference in Egypt that Libya would not budge "whatever the sanctions."

Mr. Basbari said Libya would agree to "let the two suspects stand trial rapidly provided there were guarantees of a fair trial."

Security Council members are planning to meet on Libya Monday and the United States, Britain and France are expecting their resolution on the new sanctions to be approved then or Tuesday.

Russia has accepted the resolution calling for an embargo on oil industry equipment and a freeze on Libya's overseas assets despite earlier concerns

China is expected to abstain as are Pakistan, Morocco, Djibouti and Cape Verde.

Gulf defence chiefs to meet in UAE

DUBAI (AFP) — The defence ministers of six Gulf Arab states were gathering in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) to see the latest in air technology at an international show opening here Sunday.

They will meet in nearby Abu Dhabi on Monday to discuss proposals for a joint Gulf defence force.

Some 80 military and civilian planes as well as air defence systems are on display at the show in Dubai, where nearly 450 companies from more than 30 countries will compete for the growing Middle East arms market.

Defence ministers from Iran, Turkey, Egypt, and other countries will also be among the nearly 20,000 delegates coming to the five-day show, according to the organisers, the London-based Fairs and Exhibition.

"No, the show will not lead to an arms race. The doors are open for any country to buy arms from the East, and the West through various ways."

Aided warms against U.S. patrols

MOGADISHU (AP) — General Mohamed Farah Aided warned U.S. troops not to return to the streets of Mogadishu, saying Sunday that their presence could violate a four-week-old ceasefire with foreign troops.

"There is no need to deploy U.S. troops on the streets of Mogadishu. That may be provocative," General Aided told a news conference. "I cannot see any reason for the massive deployment. Mogadishu is calm."

"Painful memories of U.S. massacres are still fresh in the Somali people. The U.S. government will bear the full responsibility" for any trouble that may break out, he said.

U.S. reinforcements — army troops on the ground, Marines still at sea — poured into Somalia after an Oct. 3 fire-fight. Their main mission is to protect U.S. and foreign troops, but officials say they also will keep roads open and

traditional arms suppliers, the United States, France and Britain.

The three countries are participating heavily in the Dubai show, sending more than 200 companies with their state-of-the-art aircraft — the U.S. F-generation, the French mirages and the British Hawks and Harriers.

Cash-strapped Russia is displaying for the first time its Sukhoi 35 as well as 19 other advanced jets and it has expressed readiness to sell any of them and set up joint military production ventures in the region.

GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, Oman, Qatar and Kuwait — have embarked on plans to bolster their armies since the end of the Gulf war. Their focus is on aircraft and long-range missiles to offset a troop shortage.

Sources said the six members were expected to spend more than \$5 billion a year in the next decade on such plans, most of which will benefit their

country.

Mr. Peres told Israel Television Saturday. Syria must change its tactics to attain peace in the Middle East.

"Syria has opted for a peace strategy, but it must change tactics and take appropriate measures: broaden the talks and clarify its conception of peace, especially on the security question," Mr. Peres said.

In an interview published Saturday in Cairo, Mr. Peres called for an early summit between Israel and Syria to build on "progress" made on bilateral issues.

"I am afraid that such fighting a few days before the launching of the appeal is harmful to the interests of the Afghan people and their leaders responsible for their welfare," Mr. Mousouris said.

A similar U.N. appeal in June 1992 for \$180 million

raised just \$86 million from world governments and another appeal launched in January for \$138 million fell well short.

Local residents said at least 200 people, mostly civilians, had been killed or injured in a week of infantry battles in which thousands of rockets and shells have been fired. An exact death toll was not available.

Fighting was raging in the valley on Sunday, a spokesman for Mr. Hekmatyar's Hezb-e-Islami party said, adding that Jamiat forces began a fierce bombardment of the Hezb-e-Islami front line soon after dawn.

Hezb-e-Islami forces responded by firing missiles at a major Jamiat airbase in the

town of Bagram, north of Kabul on the road linking the capital with the ex-Soviet Union.

Mr. Mousouris said he issued the call for peace to try to boost the prospects for an official U.N. appeal for humanitarian assistance to help Afghanistan recover after 14 years of civil war. It will be formally launched this week.

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Locations of 3rd District voting centres

AMMAN (J.T.) Following are the locations of Amman's Third District voting centres for women and men:

Women's voting centres:

1. Princess Alia College - Shmeisani - entrance opposite the Arab Bank.
2. Model Applications School - Jabal Hussein - Industrial Zone - opposite Abdul Hamid Sharaf Industrial School.
3. Al Isra School - Irbid - behind the Sports City - near the Physical Education College.
4. Jalal Amman Secondary School for Girls - Jabal Amman - First Circle - opposite the Civil Status and Passports Department.
5. Bint Uday School - Sports City District - street leading to the Military Mobilisation Department - opposite Physical Education College.
6. Samir Rifai School - Prince Mohammad Street - next to the traffic light junction leading up to the Third Circle and Wadi Saqra.
7. Aisha Ur Al Mumtaz School - Ministry of Interior Circle Independence Street - street leading to Jabal Hussein, branching out from the Independence Street.
8. Al Ittihad Secondary School - Jabal Hussein - behind the Ministry of Awqaf - formerly Al Asimah Secondary School building.
9. Sukainah Bint Al Hussein School for Girls - Jabal Hussein near the governor's office.
10. Salma Bint Ahi Hafsa School - Jabal Amman - First Circle towards the end of Rainbow Street - near Al Aqiqah School for Girls - next to the Chinese restaurant.
11. Zein Al Sharaf School for Girls - Jabal Amman -

First Circle - opposite the Civil Status and Passports Department.

12. Dahiet Al Hussein School - Jabal Amman - Um Uthaina Shopping Centre - entrance opposite Divan.

13. The Hotel Training College - Jabal Amman - between the Fourth and Fifth Circles - inside Amman Hotel.

14. Al Sweifieh Basic Education School - Jabal Amman - Sweifieh, near the Skating Palace.

15. The Comprehensive Secondary School - Shmeisani, near the Shmeisani police station.

Men's voting centre:

1. Al Hussein Secondary College - Jabal Hussein, at the end of Khaled Ben Al Walid Street, near the Nuzha traffic light junction.

2. Al Ittihad Secondary School - Jabal Hussein - behind Ministry of Awqaf - formerly Al Asimah Secondary School building.

3. Al Ibrahim School - Jabal Amman - Fifth Circle - entrance to Khuzbar Jewellery Store.

4. Al Akka Secondary School - Jabal Hussein - near the Interior Ministry Circle - 300 metres within Al Amal Hospital Street.

5. Samir Rifai School - Prince Mohammad Street - near the traffic light junction leading to the Third Circle and Wadi Saqra.

6. Zahrani School - street running parallel to the uphill Al Hayek Road leading to the First Circle - opposite the Greater Amman Municipality building.

7. Um Uthaina School - Jabal Amman - Um Uthaina District - near Amra Hotel.

8. Al Shmeisani Al Gharbi School - Jabal Amman - First Circle towards the end of Rainbow Street - near Al Aqiqah School for Girls - next to the Chinese restaurant.

9. Zein Al Sharaf School for Girls - Jabal Amman -



Education College.

10. Al Murui School - Jabal Amman - Fifth Circle - entrance to Khuzbar Jewellery Stores.

11. Abdoun School - Wadi Abdoun - road leading to Ras Al Ain District - behind Tabalat Gas Station.

12. Al Amin School - Sports City District - 200 metres inside Al Funduq Al Watani Street, opposite gate number 4 - near the garden.

13. Shukri Sha'ab School - Jabal Amman - First Circle - end of Rainbow Street - near Al Aqiqah School for Girls.

14. Ibn Aqdas School - Sports City District - 250 metres inside Al Funduq Al Watani Street, opposite gate number 4, directly behind Al Amin School.

15. Al Rashid School - Jabal Hussein - near the Interior Ministry Circle - 300 metres within Al Amal Hospital Street.

16. Al Jazair School - extension to Freres College Street - next to Omar Al Farouq Mosque opposite the Pension Department of Jabal Hussein.

17. Amina Bint Wahab School - Jabal Hussein - ex-

tension to Freres School Street - next to Omar Farouq Mosque - directly behind Al Jazair School.

18. Al Hikmah Al Wata'ni School for Boys - Jabal Hussein - behind Opera House.

19. Al Hikmah Al Wata'ni School for Girls - Jabal Hussein - opposite Al Husseini Luna Park - entrance to the Al Hizam Al Azraq Video Store.

20. Al Hikmah Al Wata'ni Nursery School - Jabal Hussein - opposite Al Husseini Luna Park - entrance to the Al Hizam Al Azraq Video Store.

21. Isaaf Al Nashashibi School - Jabal Qalaa Road down to Raghadan Business Centre - Museum Street - museum junction, 800 metres to the left.

22. Balq School - Jabal Qalaa - Road down from Raghadan Business Centre towards the museum - museum junction 900 metres to the left.

23. Prince Mohammad School - downtown - Al Hamra Cinema Bridge - road uphill to Wadi Sur District - second entrance towards the right - next to the Mother and Child Health Care Centre.

24. Islamic Sciences College - Jabal Luweibdeh - Shariya College Street.

25. Mousa Ben Nuseir School - Al Muhajirin - behind Ahli Entertainment Park.

26. Dirar Bin Al Azwar School - Jabal Luweibdeh - Terra Sancta School Street - near Al Wasieh Vocational Institute.

27. Rashid Talie School - first part of the Gardens Street - behind Al Utaiqi Gas Station - near Al Uruha School.

Police indict IAF candidate on kidnapping, assault charges

AMMAN (Petra) — On the eve of the parliamentary elections an Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate for the Fifth District of Amman, Hammam Saeed, appeared in court in Amman Sunday morning charged with plotting the kidnapping of and assault of two men in the Sweileh area at dawn Sunday.

Ali Mahmoud Salameh and Ahmad Mahmoud Hussein Salameh, both members of the Arab Islamic Democratic Movement, Do'aa, charge they were kidnapped at 1:00 a.m. Sunday by a group of people riding in a car pasted with the photos of Mufieh Al Lawzi, an independent candidate from the Fifth District.

The two Do'aa activists



Hammam Saeed

who campaign for the movement candidate, Yousef Abu Bakr, told police later that they were taken to Sheikh Hammam Saeed's home where they were severely beaten for their alleged in-

volvement in the distribution of leaflets attacking Sheikh Saeed.

An eyewitness tipped the police who entered the Saeed residence. Sheikh Saeed was brought to the Sweileh police station, indicted for kidnapping and assault and later moved to the court.

The two claimants produced a physician's report. The court, which convened Sunday morning, deferred the case until Saturday.

Hammam Saeed and another member of the IAF, candidate Mohammad Abu Faris also from the Fifth District, were expelled from a public rally Saturday in Sweileh at which both claimants were present.

The audience threw out the two candidates because they disagreed with the views being discussed at the meeting which was attended by the two victims of the assault.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of recent paintings by artist Ammar Khammash at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing, the permanent exhibition (Saturday-Thursday 10:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.)
- ★ Art exhibition by a group of artists at Orfali Art Gallery (telephone 6432512).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mustafa Ali at Balsadna Art Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Sa'di Al Ka'b at Alia Art Gallery (9:30-13:30 and 15:00-18:00).
- ★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Al Jaloos at the French Cultural Centre.

★ Art exhibition by artist Mohammad Abn Zraiq entitled "Views" at the Royal Cultural Centre.

★ Exhibition of ceramics and coloured glass by artists Khalid Mahafzah and Basel Tarawneh at the Royal Cultural Centre.

FILMS

★ Short film in French entitled "Le Diner Des Bustes" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

★ Film entitled "Delicatessen" at the French Cultural Centre at 8:00 p.m.

LECTURES

★ Lecture entitled "Byzantine and Umayyad Palestine: The Strands of Continuity" by Dr. Irfan Shahid at the American Center of Oriental Research at 7:00 p.m.

paperwork in government offices and departments."

Mahmoud Saleh, a teacher and an active campaigner for the Islamic Action Front candidate in Baqaa camp Mohammad Owaidah, said the Front decided to field a camp resident for the election "because the trend in the camp is to vote for a Palestinian candidate." This explains the larger number of Palestinian candidates running for elections compared to 1989.

"They should be voting for me as a Jordanian," Mr. Saleh said.

But Mr. Shihdeh, widely known as the Fateh candidate in Baqaa camp, said people feel that a Palestinian or a camp candidate who lives among his constituency and is in daily touch with them can be more responsive to their needs and can better understand their problems.

Many argued that the atmosphere of anti-Palestinianism by Jordanian "likudnik" which accompanied the signing of the PLO-

Israel accord has not helped to dispel their fears about being treated equally as Jordanian citizens.

"To only have a (Jordanian) passport does not mean you are talking about an identity. We have to differentiate between the passport, the paper, and the passport identity," Mr. Shihdeh said. "Palestinians living outside Palestine have to exercise their existence, but not to forget their identity."

The 1948 refugees say although they realise that the PLO-Israeli accord has conceded their right of return, they nevertheless still have hopes to return. They are uncertain about their future, and feel lost between thinking of permanently improving their status in Jordan and waiting to see how the implementation of the PLO-Israeli accord would affect them.

"Certainly people are worried about their future, but nobody gave them answers after the signing of the PLO-Israeli agreement," Mr. Shihdeh said.

camp, said residents feel frustrated with their poor standard of living and they are very worried about their future after the implementation of the PLO-Israeli accord.

"They believe that these elections would not solve their problems," she told the Jordan Times.

The atmosphere in many Palestinian populated areas is probably more politically sophisticated, but the issue in common is that of direct services. Politicised banners have been almost non-existent in many camps, and there has been an absence of Palestinian issues, except for emphasis on national unity. Candidates have promised to go to any length in order to reconcile Palestinians' right of return with their political and civil rights in Jordan.

Mr. Shihdeh and Mr. Masri agreed that the general

feeling is that Palestinian issues are completely tackled by the PLO, so people's focus is on direct services and not on political issues.

Five women waiting at a public office in one Palestinian refugee camp discussed the elections and said they all registered for the vote, but only one would actually cast her ballot.

"The previous Parliament did nothing to help us. When we knocked at the door of the deputy we voted for, he was always too busy to receive us," said an elderly woman.

All said they wanted jobs for their sons and husbands, they wanted electricity, more water pumped to their houses, and more public services.

"We will vote for the candidate who can succeed in providing services to the camp," one woman said.

An electrician, resident of Madaba refugee camp, said he would vote for someone who "would facilitate our

interests in elections," Mr. Masri said.

If you see lack of interest in important political issues, Mr. Masri added, it is because many people feel that these issues are decided without them. "That is why, on the whole, people's main focus is on direct services."

"An East Jordanian deputy can better defend the Palestinians' case in Parliament because he would be better connected to the power centres than a Palestinian," said a professor at Jordan University, who did not want to be identified any further.

Intellectuals and wealthier Jordanians of Palestinian origin have shown relatively more interest and enthusiasm in the election campaign. Many would vote for liberal and moderate candidates, regardless of their origin.

Mr. Masri believes that Palestinians will be voting in big numbers in the Third District, an upper middle class area, where he is seeking reelection.

"It is known that in any democracy, the lower income families are usually the least

Preparations for election day completed, says minister

AMMAN (Petra) — Interior Minister Salameh Hammam Sunday briefed the directors of news agencies of Oman, Yemen and Palestine on preparations for today's (Monday) general elections.

Mr. Hammam said the Ministry of Interior has recruited 15,000 officials to help conduct and supervise the election process in the various governorates.

Security and administrative measures have been completed to facilitate the voting in a free and fair manner, said the minister.

According to Mr. Hammam, more than 80 per cent of the 1,501,229 persons who registered to vote have collected their voting cards to cast ballots.

The minister, who reviewed the country's parliamentary life since the establishment of the Emirate of Transjordan, said the concerned authorities benefited from the 1989 elections experiment and improved the general procedures to ensure the success of the 1993 elections.

The visitors later toured the Ministry of Interior's



Interior Minister Salameh Hammam Sunday briefs the directors (left to right) of the Oman, Yemen and Palestine news agencies (Petra photo)

related to the elections.

The directors of the three news agencies later called at the Royal Cultural Centre (RCC) where they met Minister of Information

Ma'an Abu Nowar who outlined the arrangements by the radio and television to cover the elections and the services to be offered to the local and foreign media.

July 19, 1989 — Riots over soaring prices and political freedoms. Cabinet resigns. King launches liberalisation programme.

November 1974 — Parliament gives King power to dissolve legislature and delay voting since elections cannot be held in Israeli-occupied West Bank. Women get vote. King dissolves parliament after recognising PLO as Palestinians' sole representative.

January 1984 — Parliament revived. West Bank deputies appointed, but East Bank members are elected.

February 1981 — Emir Abdullah dismissed council after it refuses to pass budget. First election since 1961.

April 1967 — Last election.

July 7, 1991 — King abolishes martial law.

Sept. 1-1992 — New law allowing political parties takes effect.

Aug. 16, 1993 — King introduces one-person, one-vote law.

Evolution of electoral history

AMMAN (AP) — Monday's parliamentary elections are the first multiparty polls in Jordan since 1956. They are part of His Majesty King Hussein's programme of democratisation that makes Jordan one of the most open political systems in the Arab World.

But the country has had a checkered political history since it was established by the British in 1921. Here are some highlights:

February 1929 — British mandate state of Transjordan holds first elections for Legislative Council.

February 1931 — Emir Abdullah dismissed council after it refuses to pass budget. First election since 1961.

April 1967 — Last election.

January 1984 — Parliament revived. West Bank deputies appointed, but East Bank members are elected.

February 1981 — Emir Abdullah dismissed council after it refuses to pass budget. First election since 1961.

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July 7, 1991 — King abolishes martial law.

Sept. 1-1992 — New law allowing political parties takes effect.

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Awesome task ahead

WHETHER JORDANIANS will turn out in strength today to elect their 12th Parliament will only be clear when balloting ends this evening. Indications are that the percentage of those who registered for this year's elections is almost identical to that of 1989, while the percentage of those who collected their cards to the registered is about six points lower this time than in the last elections. If we are to go by the trend of 1989, less than 40 per cent of the Kingdom's eligible voters will cast their ballot. Adding to this the number of all 18-year olds, the army personnel and expatriates, who are deprived of the right to vote in accordance with the current Elections Law, that would bring the percentage closer to 30 per cent.

This certainly is a very low percentage for a nation always thought of as highly politicised. Yet the people could not be blamed for the apathy projected in these elections. Many factors must have contributed to this state of affairs. Decades of curtailment of political association, a strong central government and four years of parliamentary life that changed little in the life of average Jordanians, have all contributed to the lack of interest in the elections.

However, this should not discourage us. What is needed in the next four years is a strong, credible and progressive government that would compensate for the expected conservative Parliament. In the absence of a strong opposition, the regime will have a free hand in pursuing peace and at the same time consolidating the foundations of progressive and enlightened democracy. Recent government promises of decentralisation must be translated into concrete grassroots and official action by allowing for the free election of local government. Laws, even those passed by the previous Parliament, should be liberalised and their application made more democratic. Economic mismanagement, including government monopoly on certain goods and subsidy of others, are impediments to economic growth that should be addressed and rectified. The role of the Follow-up and Inspection Department needs to be broadened and enhanced to guard against corruption and economic acrobatics that in the past had landed the country in half a decade of economic trouble.

His Majesty the King has chosen to remind everyone at a recent address to army officers that he is the head of the three branches of government: the executive, the legislature and the judiciary. The King, on many other occasions recently, reaffirmed this country's strong commitment to democracy. He chose to renew this pledge on the eve of the elections when on Saturday he received the founding members of the Centre for the Study of Freedom, Democracy and Human Rights in the Arab World and asserted his "full conviction that no nation can face the challenges, escape darkness, oppression and ignorance and attain enlightenment and knowledge without freedom, democracy and respect for human rights."

What His Majesty's next government and the Parliament should do is strive to translate that commitment into real action.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

A COLUMNIST in Al Ra'i daily Sunday hailed a call by the emir of Bahrain. Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa, on Arab states to end their differences as a very constructive step. Following in the footsteps of the president of the United Arab Emirates, the emir of Bahrain has voiced concern over the divisions in the Arab World and urged Arab leaders to unite their ranks in the face of the crucial stage through which the Arab Nation is passing, said Bader Abdul Haq. The emir's call, which followed a similar one by the ruler of Qatar, is a call on the Arabs to reinitiate their collective action and patch up their differences so that they can deal with the common challenges facing their nation, added the writer. Citing the case of Iraq as one around which the Arab could end their differences, the writer said that the Iraqi people have suffered so much and for so long and it is in the power of the Arab countries to end this suffering and end the embargo that deprives the Iraqis of the basic necessities. The Arabs ought to terminate their sanctions on the Iraqi people and free Iraq from the shackles of poverty and deprivation as a first step towards resuming normal relations, demanded the writer.

ARAFAT HUJAZI, a columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily tackled the question of Jewish settlements and their continued presence on Arab lands of Palestine. The Israeli prime minister has repeated to the PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat the fact that the Jewish state can by no means accept a Palestinian state to be established in the liberated Arab lands, said Arafat Hujazi. The writer said that the Israeli government wants to keep the Jewish settlements in place and wants the Israeli forces to stay in order to protect these settlements, which means that the Israelis are determined to stay in the occupied Arab lands. The Israeli government criticised the PLO for suspending the talks at Taba claiming that the Palestinians are following tactics and stands that are not compatible with the PLO-Israeli agreement signed on Sept. 13, said Hujazi. But in fact, the PLO is taking a firm stand vis-a-vis the Israeli position and prostrations and is determined to have full control over the Gaza Strip and the Jenicho area, as a first stage towards the full implementation of the agreement. He said there is danger in the presence of the Jewish settlements on Ar. land and all efforts should be made to end their presence for good.

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordanians head for their first multi-party elections since 1956 with mixed feelings; and some of them are still trying to determine which candidate to vote for.

People interviewed at random by the Jordan Times expressed their disappointment with the previous Parliament and said they did not expect anything to be accomplished by today's elected body.

A retired businessman criticised the new election formula of one-person, one-vote and said this system is going to weaken the election process and will not serve people's interests.

"I wonder what these new elections will achieve," said Abdul Aziz Zakkout.

"I would have preferred to see elections limited to the political parties, because at least it will combine more than 100 people with similar ideas."

The 63-year-old man told the Jordan Times that he was out of the country during the period of voter registrations, but said that if he had registered he would vote for a

lawyer, because such a candidate would know how to argue his case in Parliament.

Zaki Abu Loughod, 65, a jeweller shop owner in Jatah Hussein, said he was willing to vote for any candidate regardless of his beliefs as long as he felt this candidate was willing to accomplish something for this country.

A retired businessman who had returned recently from Kuwait said he was going to vote for his neighbour because he said he preferred to vote for someone he knew rather than for a candidate he did not know at all.

Jordan University students who were interviewed by the Jordan Times, however, had negative feelings towards the old and the expected new Parliament as well, and most of them criticised the previous Parliament for not accomplishing anything for the Jordanian people and not serving Jordan's interests.

Hussein Abdul Fatah, a third year law student, said he was registered in the Second District and was determined to vote for Abdul Minem Abu Zani (a Muslim) who in 1989 "fulfilled all his promises."

Mr. Abdul Fatah maintained that he had faith that

candidate Abu Zani's top priorities are people's interests and demands.

A fifth year engineering student, with a temporary passport (could not vote), said even if he was able to vote he would not do so because he said the 1989 Parliament was a big disappointment for the Jordanian people.

"If I had the chance to vote, I wouldn't, and I would boycott it (the elections) because it is a waste of time," said the student, who preferred to remain anonymous.

He said the 1989 elections proved worthless, and the Parliament was just a name and served no purpose.

"I don't have any hope in this newly elected Parliament, especially that all the political issues are controlled internally and externally by the government anyway, and regular citizens don't have a say."

Other students shared the same feelings, and some had no interest in elections and considered election day as any other regular day.

"I am not going to vote because I never voted before, and I don't have any interest in it at all," said a graduate

By and large, university students appeared apathetic to Monday's elections (Photo by Aynsley Floyd)

student who was visiting the university.

An English literature student who is registered in Zarqa said she is debating whether to vote or not because she said she does not feel that the last Parliament has served a purpose, and she does not expect an outcome from this Parliament.

"I am still thinking about voting, but I doubt that I will do it, and if I decide to vote I will vote for candidate Nadia Bushnaq," said the student who preferred not to be identified.

An Arabic literature student who also chose anonymity blamed families for discouraging their family members from voting this year.

"Other students told me, 'what would this new Parliament do that the previous Parliament did not do?'

Tafileh could be won by new faces

(Continued from page 1)

where, in Zarqa, as an independent Islamist.

The switch by Mr. Khalafat was apparently necessitated by his falling out with the Brotherhood over two issues. The first was over the former deputy's position on a corruption case involving a fellow citizen from Tafileh heard by the previous Parliament. The second was over Mr. Khalafat's stance on the Gulf crisis and war, which favoured Saudi Arabia and the other Gulf countries.

Dr. Akayleh, a former minister of education and the official Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidate, remains a strong contender, even though there is a chance he could be upset by a surprise winner. Dr. Akayleh won the highest number of votes in this district in 1989 when he received 4,587 votes out of the 15,300 cast.

But then Dr. Akayleh, who is a prominent leader of the IAF and its assistant secretary general, had no one running against him in his home town of Aimech, a town which has 5,000 voters.

Three other candidates are now contesting his seat and one in particular, fellow clansman Ratch Saud, is said to have good chances of winning the majority of the votes in Aimech.

Mr. Saud is affiliated to the Al Ahd Party. Although not officially running on a party ticket he has close affiliation to the party and its leader, Karak candidate Abdul Hadi Majali, is "understood" by Tafileh voters.

IAF officials on Sunday sounded confident that Dr. Akayleh, who as minister of education stirred controversy by supporting segregation of sexes in Jordanian schools, would win his bid for reelection.

Incumbent Ghababshieh.

on the other hand, is not expected to do so well.

This is largely due to perception by his constituents that he did not do enough for them while a member of Parliament.

Mr. Ghahahsheh's seat could well be filled by another leftist candidate, Mohammad Daoudieh, who is counting on winning votes from both the urban dwellers of Tafileh as well as from the rural population.

The chances of Mr. Daoudieh are said to be "very good" since he is perceived to enjoy influential links in Amman and good standing in the Tafileh area itself. Mr. Daoudieh, a daily columnist for Al Dustour Arabic newspaper, had worked as chief of the press department at the Royal Court before he quit to run for this campaign and take up his old job at the paper.

"They believe that he will be able to get things done for people in Tafileh," one local observer said.

"People here care about jobs, healthcare and services. So, they will elect doers and not preachers," the observer added in obvious reference to the Islamists.

Dr. Mohammad Oran, another urban candidate who lost his bid for a parliamentary seat in 1989, is running again, but this time as secretary general of the United Arab Democratic Party, known as Waed. The party is a grouping of pan-Arab nationalists with liberal and left-of-centre leanings, which was originally founded by former minister Jamal Shaeer in Aimech.

Mr. Saud is affiliated to the Al Ahd Party. Although not officially running on a party ticket he has close affiliation to the party and its leader, Karak candidate Abdul Hadi Majali, is "understood" by Tafileh voters.

Dr. Oran, who hails from a prominent family and is said to be a serious contender for one of the three seats, had insisted that the rotational leadership of the party be his on election day, according to fellow party members in Am-

man.

"Dr. Oran felt he had a better chance of winning a seat for himself and his party in Tafileh if on election day he could tell his constituents that he is head of a party," Dr. Shaer said.

But very few people are running on party tickets in Tafileh. "Parties are not popular yet; in fact they could hurt one's election chances," said candidate Daoudieh, who himself resigned from the Jordan Arab Democratic Party, a party he helped found several months before the campaign.

Nevertheless, a candidate of the Jordanian Arab Socialist Party, Ayed Amareh, who is counting on winning his clan's 2,500 votes is also running on a political platform.

Those who are opposed to the politicisation of the campaign base their opposition on the feeling that both the clan's clout and loyalties will only suffer if a rise of political parties sets in.

"It's either the tribe or the party, and people here prefer the tribe," said Najib Daoudieh.

Mr. Daoudieh, Dr. Akayleh, Dr. Oran, Mr. Saud and Mr. Amareh.

This leaves the race to be won by three of the five strongest candidates, Mr. Daoudieh, Dr. Akayleh, Dr. Oran, Mr. Saud and Mr. Amareh.

Abdullah, a bus driver, comes last on the list of both observers and voters, "mainly and simply because of his background," as one Kourah resident put it.

Abdul Aziz is also expected to win over some votes from the Bani Yassin family, whose votes are split among their own candidate

Ghazi Amryeen is Al Ra'i's correspondent in Tafileh.

Northern Jordan Valley up for grabs

(Continued from page 1)

votes.

In 1989, Abdul Majeed Shraydeh won with 7,628 votes which he gathered from his immediate relatives and those related to the Shraydeh family by marriage and lineage. The only other candidate from the same family, Yousef, an ophthalmologist, came off the last but one among the 18 candidates with a mere 376 votes.

This time around, the competition among the Shraydeh family is not going to be an easy one, since Abdul Majeed is running against his brother Yousef and his uncle Abdulla Aziz, a senior IAF member. According to observers, a large percentage of the Shraydeh favour Abdul Aziz.

In addition to the fact that Abdul Aziz is backed by the IAF, his professional record as director of the Basheer and Zarqa hospitals and finally Zarqa Health Department before his resignation to run for elections are major elements expected to convince voters to cast their ballots in his favour, the observers say.

The immediate votes that Abdul Aziz appears to have secured are estimated at about 2,500 from the Shraydeh and their relatives by marriage, mainly the Zoubi, and Bani Yassin, from the middle villages which include Deir Abi Saeed, Juffe, Kufra Alma, Ashrafiyah, Tibneh and Luggineh.

The one Zoubi candidate, Abdulla, is a bus driver, comes last on the list of both observers and voters, "mainly and simply because of his background," as one Kourah resident put it.

This leaves the race to be won by three of the five strongest candidates, Mr. Daoudieh, Dr. Akayleh, Dr. Oran, Mr. Saud and Mr. Amareh.

Abdul Aziz is also expected to win over some votes from the Bani Yassin family, whose votes are split among their own candidate

Ali, whose chances in winning are very slim and Abdul Aziz and Abdul Majeed Shraydeh.

Ahmad Al Khatib, the other IAF candidate also enjoys the support of his village Idetta, with 4,032 voters, as well as some sundry votes from the other southern villages such as Kufra Rakah, Kufra Abeel, Beit Eidees and Kufra Awan, which have a total of 6,975 votes.

While the residents of Beit Eidees held a meeting late Sunday to decide on how they should be voting, the votes in Abeel and Kufra Awan are divided among the two IAF candidates, and Mohammad Khashashneh, a retired army general, as well as Mr. Al Khatib.

The villages of the north; Sammou', Kufra Kefia, Zimal and Jeneen Safa, with a total of about 6,000 votes are also divided between the three Shraydeh candidates, along with Mahmoud Kellani and Khaled and Ali Masa'deh.

Coming in third in the order of competition following the two IAF candidates is Mahmoud Keilani (Rahaba'h), a doctor, who according to observers stands a very good chance of winning with the support of some villages in the north and south, unlike the other Rahaba'h candidates.

Nasser Shraydeh is Al Ra'i's correspondent in Kourah and the northern Jordan Valley

LETTERS

For the record

To the Editor:

Lamis K. Andoni is mistaken or has been misled in her coverage of some of the First District candidates in the Jordan Times of Nov. 6, 1993.

First, Mr. Abu Jamous's first name is Hammad and not Hamed.

Second, the Da'a'ja tribe has three main tribes; over 500 members of these, comprising sheiks, members of various professions and local leaders who represent thousands of people, met on May 13, 1993, and unanimously elected Mr. Hammad Abu Jamous to contest the election as their only candidate. This was reported in Al Ra'i newspaper some time later.

Mr. Brayseh received no vote at this gathering.

Third, five months later, in October, Mr. Brayseh received the backing of 11 members of a small group calling itself "Sons of Da'a'ja tribe" and, therefore, he introduced himself as the official candidate only of this group and not of the Da'a'ja tribe. This was very clear in the statement they issued then. Therefore, the official and only candidate for

Features

UNRWA report welcomes prospects for change

United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) Commissioner-General Ilti Turkmen expresses the hope that the signing of the Declaration of Principles between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and Israel on Sept. 13, 1993, "marks a turning point in the region and in the West Bank and Gaza in particular."

In his preface to UNRWA's Annual Report to the United Nations General Assembly released on Oct. 5 in New York, Mr. Turkmen says that "the real significance of this report lies in the fact that it underscores how vital it was to reach such an agreement." He also voices hope that "the report—which includes the period between 1 July 1992 and 30 June 1993—covers an era which has gone forever."

During 1992, more than 45 per cent of UNRWA funds were devoted to education, Mr. Turkmen reported. Nearly 393,000 elementary and preparatory pupils were enrolled in the agency's 641 schools. About 4,500 students received trade, technical and vocational training in the agency's eight centres during the year. The agency took initial steps to upgrade the qualifications of teachers by replacing its existing two-year teacher training courses with a four-year university-level course.

Over 20 per cent of agency expenditure was on health. The effectiveness of UNRWA's primary health care services was confirmed by a recent UNICEF study which found that infant and child mortality rates among residents in refugee camps, most of whom receive health care from UNRWA, were significantly lower than for those living in towns and villages in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Relief and social services absorbed about 13 per cent of total agency expenditure during 1992, Mr. Turkmen reported. By June 1993, 6.5 per cent of the refugee population agency-wide qualified for special assistance. Budgetary constraints forced the agency to freeze the number of refugee families receiving special hardship assistance, including urgently needed shelter rehabilitation, at the 1993 spending level. As a result of greater involvement by local communities, development programmes for needy refugees, especially women and disabled people, were expanded during the year.

Curfews, closures and plummeting local incomes meant that the demand for emergency food aid greatly exceeded the amount budgeted for the West Bank and Gaza Strip. At the end of March 1993, the West Bank and Gaza Strip were sealed from Israel. The closure cut off some 130,000 Palestinians from approximately \$2.75 million per day in wages they had previously earned in Israel. UNRWA distributed its available stocks of flour to 39,000 needy families in the West Bank and 120,000 families in Gaza and issued an emergency appeal for imported staples such as flour, rice and sugar.

With many shelters built as temporary accommodation in

the 1950s and 1960s, the housing stock in refugee camps has deteriorated over the years, largely due to financial constraints. The commissioner-general said that UNRWA estimates that about 5,000 shelters of families receiving special hardship assistance in the occupied territory urgently need major repair or reconstruction. Acute housing needs also exist in Lebanon, especially for about 6,000 displaced Palestine refugee families. The agency only had funding to rehabilitate about 630 shelters throughout its area of operations during the year. Emergency repairs were completed to about 1,150 shelters.

The agency's efforts to assist the local Palestinian economy continued to expand during the year, Mr. Turkmen said. By the end of June 1993, about \$3.8 million had been disbursed in loans to over 180 small and medium-sized businesses run by Palestinians, mainly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Poor environmental health conditions in refugee camps in the occupied territory and Lebanon represent one of the most serious health risks to refugees living in the camps. During the year, UNRWA established a new department of environmental affairs in Gaza and international consultants carried out a detailed study on strategic options to improve environmental health in the eight camps and adjacent municipalities. In the West Bank, the agency continued the construction of internal sewage schemes in eight refugee camps. In Lebanon, UNRWA continued its efforts to raise some \$12 million to implement its provisional 1991 master plan to improve water supply and solid waste management in the camps.

UNRWA disbursed \$306 million in its regular and special programmes serving some 2.8 million registered Palestine refugees during calendar year 1992. Expenditure declined from \$308.1 million in 1991, despite rising demand for services due to natural population increase and deteriorating socio-economic conditions. At the beginning of 1993, UNRWA projected a substantial budget shortfall which forced the agency to take austerity measures to contain expenditure. These measures, as well as additional contributions from some donors, helped to reduce the deficit.

Mr. Turkmen thanked the donor countries for their spontaneous offers of financial support since the signing of the Declaration of Principles to enable UNRWA to meet the challenges during the initial phase of the interim period. At the same time, he pointed out that "the need for continued assistance for the Palestine refugees in Jordan, Lebanon, and the Syrian Arab Republic should not be overlooked." The commissioner-general will present his report to the Special Political and Decolonisation Committee of the U.N. General Assembly which will consider the work of UNRWA during the third week of November.

Ajloun could be closest race

(Continued from page 1)

its members into a leading position in the polls today. Attempts to reach such consensus were said to be under way Sunday evening.

"There are conservative voters, especially women, who may vote Deifallah into parliament," said one observer from Ajloun about the IAF candidate.

But the Momani split is by no means the greatest or the largest in the Ajloun district. In Kufranje, the town with the single largest number of votes in the district, seven candidates are vying for the town's 8,072 votes. One frontrunner in the race is former Deputy Annab. But many here complain that Dr. Annab did not do enough for his district and those vowed to back his relative Farouk Annab. Three cousins from the Freihat clan are also vying for the votes in Kufranje.

Although Ali Zgoul the only Muslim candidate running in Ajloun, he is expected to share the town's 5,715 votes with three Christian candidates, Wadi Zuwaideh, Jamil Haddad and Majed Haddad.

Two candidates from the Qudah clan in 'Ain Janna, with 3,727 registered voters,

Few more snips for next four years:

Foul play should be preempted; Islamist sides with women while another wants to sell his house; philosophical support to cap it all



who have not picked up their cards or whose cards have been hidden by some candidates, can vote on Nov. 8 with an official proof of identity as long as their names appear on voter lists." This move by the prime minister has not been announced officially, as far as our information tells us. But it augurs well for our elections: An important tool of democracy is being returned by the government to the people from those who tried to steal it.

ISLAMIC ACTION Front candidate Sheikh Abdul Munem Abu Zant must be really worried about reelecting in his Second District or else he would not have resorted to such a dramatic move as to advertise the sale of his house in Arabic papers. In an ad published in local dailies yesterday, Sheikh Abu Zant placed his usual "Vote for me" advertisement, only to find right under it the following ad also: "Hurry before it is too late. Candidate

Sheikh Abu Zant announces that he wants to sell his house to pay his debts which he had to shoulder (as a result of the campaign, presumably). The house's features: (1) The shortest house opposite Al Hashlamoun Mosque (2) The house is a basement located below street level." Attractive the house is not, but the message is powerful. By the way, Sheikh Abu Zant got the highest percentage of votes any candidate achieved in 1989 and

that the absence of major political issues from the electoral race was a direct result of the initially strongly expected decision to postpone the polls, which was partly based on fears that the election campaign would turn into a referendum on the Oslo accord.

These fears did materialise, however, and the electoral campaign ended with the peace process in general overshadowed by talks about services.

The peace process is also expected to be minimally affected by the 12th Parliament and the government is expected to proceed with its talks with Israel with less noise than it had to listen to from the previous Parliament.

By virtue of its likely composition, the House is expected to leave the government in charge of its foreign policy at what most observers describe as a crucial time in the history of the nation.

The debate that deputies would launch, observers say, would be similar to the one that candidates raised in the run-up to the election day.

JORDAN TIMES, MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 1993 5



appears to be headed for an encore this time too.

PERHAPS THE only real breakthrough in the Nov. 8 campaign is a column published by independent Islamist columnist Mohammad Sbeibi yesterday. Under the heading "Men... ensure that women reach Parliament," Mr. Sbeibi said that he attended a meeting during which the two Circassian candidates for the Third District discussed their opinions and aired their views on the political, social, and economic issues in Jordan. "I want to say that the two candidates enjoy very high political maturity and incredible abilities for dialogue and discussions. Every one of them proved that she follows current affairs, whether political or economic." The other incredible part in his column is: "We men have to admit that we do not like to see a politicised woman in our Parliament, especially if she enjoys a higher level of political maturity and ability than the men. We have to admit that we hate to see women in Parliament demanding that the Civil Status Law be changed because we feel it takes away from our hegemony over them... We hate to see women being consulted because we enjoy being the only consultants and we want women only to obey." To Mr. Sbeibi, who joined the Islamic Action Front as a founding member before resigning in protest over its "undemocratic favouritism towards the Muslim Brotherhood Movement," one must raise his or her hat immediately.

WHOEVER SAID sports

Nermeen Mraad

Campaign focused little on real issues

(Continued from page 1)

almost two weeks into the legal period allowed for campaigning, and by its initial handing of the PLO-Israel deal.

With the absence of other effective mechanisms of communications such as television, which is legally banned from promoting any political group or airing political commercials, rallies were the 651 candidates in 1989 attacked the International Monetary Fund (IMF)-prescribed economic adjustment programme and Israel and demanded more democracy and respect for human rights.

This year, campaigning took place mainly through banners that hung above electricity poles and shops, and private visits and meetings, until the Higher Court of Justice revoked the ban on public rallies on Sept. 28 and the campaigns picked up steam.

After receiving permission to hold the rallies, independent leftist and Islamist candidates invited their followers to public meetings that injected some life into the campaign.

The mainly well-attended

rallies, however, were seen to have done little to help the divided left improve its chances at the polls.

The 36 Islamic Action Front (IAF) candidates told supporters at their rallies that they were the target of a campaign aimed at reducing their representation at the House but their fiery speeches are not expected to guarantee more than 20 of them success in their bid for election.

The new electoral rules are likely to work to the disadvantage of the IAF, which can no longer rely on the organisational power that helped the Muslim Brotherhood, the core of the IAF, carry 23 of its members and 10 of its supporters and sympathisers to the House in 1989 through striking deals and alliances with other candidates.

Observers say the uncertainty about holding the elections that followed the signing of the PLO-Israel accord, the Jordanian-Israeli agenda for peace negotiations and the future of the democratic process itself.

They contend that the government kept them at bay from their constituencies by banning public rallies until

the ad hoc committee was set up after the signing of the PLO-Israeli autonomy deal in Washington on Sept. 13.

The committee consists of the EC, the European Investment Bank, Canada, Japan, United States, Egypt, Israel, Russia, Saudi Arabia, Jordan, Tunisia, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the United Nations, Palestinian representatives, and the World Bank — the latter acting as secretariat.

Observers say the electorate is no longer receptive to unrealistic slogans which it has learned. Parliament cannot deliver. The candidates realised the changes and thus addressed localised yet real needs that pertain to the daily lives of the citizens.

Others insist, however,

Self-rule talks resume

(Continued from page 10)

liked," Mr. Ben-Ari told the Associated Press.

In Cairo on Sunday, Mr. Arafat discussed international financial support for Palestinian autonomy with U.S. Ambassador to Egypt Robert Pelletreau.

The talks focused on the results of the first meeting last Friday of the ad hoc committee grouping donor countries, at the Paris offices of the World Bank. Mr. Arafat told reporters,

that the absence of major political issues from the electoral race was a direct result of the initially strongly expected decision to postpone the polls, which was partly based on fears that the election campaign would turn into a referendum on the Oslo accord.

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Monday 8/11/93

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U.S., Japan lead world borrowers

PARIS (AFP) — The United States and Japan top the list of major borrowers on world capital markets, accounting for more than one-quarter of the total raised in the first eight months of 1993, the OECD said Sunday.

But France and Germany overtook Britain, the third-ranking borrower in 1992, which cut its borrowing by one-fifth from a year earlier, the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) said in a report on

financial market trends.

Germany, Canada, Italy and Australia all raised more funds in the January-August period alone than during 1992 as a whole.

Preliminary data compiled by the OECD set U.S.-based borrowing at \$86.8 billion, a 38 per cent increase from the first eight months of last year.

If recent trends continued, U.S. borrowing could reach some \$130 billion for the year as a whole, against \$95 billion in 1992, analysts said.

Japanese borrowing, largely in the bond market, was up by a moderate eight per cent at \$51.1 billion or two-thirds of the 1992 total of \$75.3 billion.

France recorded a nearly 29 per cent year-on-year increase in the first eight months, raising \$36.4 billion against \$28.3 billion during the same period of last year and \$42.5 billion in 1992 as a whole.

German borrowing jumped by 71 per cent to \$36 billion, up from \$21 billion, compared

with a 1992 total of \$28.4 billion.

Britain was the only major borrower to reduce its recourse to the world markets during the eight-month period, raising 21 per cent less than a year earlier to \$35 billion, half its 1992 total of \$71 billion.

Canada, which borrowed \$30.2 billion last year, had exceeded that level by August, with \$31.3 billion against just under \$23 billion a year earlier. The biggest percentage in-

crease was recorded by Italy, which borrowed \$22.4 billion from January to August, up by 78 per cent from the year-earlier \$12.6 billion and pointing to a doubling of Italian external market financing this year from last year's \$15 billion.

Australia also registered a hefty 72 per cent increase at \$18.2 billion against \$10.6 billion, well above its 1992 total of \$14.7 billion, the OECD report showed.

DUBAI (R) — The world's top aircraft makers sought lucrative Gulf deals at the start of the Dubai air show Sunday, wooing buyers with their latest civilian and military planes.

Some 150 companies and 33 countries are participating in the show, including competitors for a possible Saudi order for 60 civilian planes worth \$6 billion.

But experts at the show say Riyadh has yet to give any official indication of where Saudi, Saudi Arabia's national flag carrier, will place its orders for the aircraft.

McDonnell Douglas and Boeing Co. of the United States and the four-nation European Airbus Industrie consortium are competing hard for the deal and are all represented in force at the five-day Dubai show.

"Saudi is involved in talks with many firms at the moment and any announcement now could affect the talks... pricing for example," an Arab diplomat familiar with the deal told Reuters.

U.S. and European officials including heads of state have been in touch with Saudi King Fahd recently to try and help their local aircraft makers secure part of the Saudi deal.

Although experts say do not expect any major deals to be concluded at the Dubai

Dubai air show starts

Top aircraft makers compete for Gulf deals

ing at the F-16 during the show," a Western expert said in reference to Abu Dhabi's long-term plans to buy 80 new warplanes.

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UAE Defence Minister Mohammad Bin Rashid Al Maktoum visited the South African display and inspected the CSH-2 Rooivalk attack helicopter, one of which experts as a serious contender to the Apache. It was its first overseas appearance.

At the Russian stand, the minister went into the cargo hold of a six-engined Antonov transport, which has the world's highest maximum takeoff weight of 600 tonnes.

The Russians have an impressive 20-aircraft line-up, including the Sukhoi SU27 fighter and its variant SU35 which is being developed as a two-seater rival to the American F-15.

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"The UAE is actively look-

German government, opposition agree on Telekom privatisation

GREVENBROICH, Germany (R) — German Post and Telecommunications Minister Wolfgang Boetsch has announced the all-clear for one of the world's biggest privatisations — Deutsche Bundespost Telekom — after years of grueling negotiations.

"With this agreement the way has been cleared to turn all of the postal companies into joint-stock companies starting with Telekom," Mr. Boetsch said after three days of tough talks with the opposition Social Democrats (SPD).

The government has previously indicated it hopes to sell a first tranche of 25 per cent of Telekom shares, worth around 15 billion marks (\$8.8 billion), in 1996, with a second tranche of 24 per cent in 1998.

Mr. Boetsch said the compromise included the following

points:

— A holding company will be established for the government's remaining majority stake of 51 per cent in each of the three postal companies.

— Representatives of the federal states will advise them but have no direct legal control over their day-to-day operations.

Indian Festival Open Invitation

The Indian community living in Jordan is celebrating Diwali (the Festival of Lights) at the premises of the Embassy of India, First Circle, Jabal Amman, on Friday, Nov. 12, 1993. Also explored during the festivities will be possibilities of expanding Indian cultural and social activities in Jordan.

All Indians are invited to attend.

Function will start at 5.30 p.m.

Kindly confirm participation not later than 3 p.m. Thursday, on Telephone 692535/610086/736380

Seven NATO members already operate Lynx, which the company calls "the world's most capable small ship helicopter." The French navy patrolling the Gulf use Lynx to track Iranian submarine movements.

McDonnell Douglas is showing its Apache attack helicopter in the 1991 Gulf war to drive Iraq from Kuwait.

Experts say it is big on Kuwait's shopping list after orders from the UAE, Egypt, Israel and Saudi Arabia.

"The UAE is actively look-

ing at the F-16 during the show," a Western expert said in reference to Abu Dhabi's long-term plans to buy 80 new warplanes.

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They

Police disperse small Moscow protest to mark revolution

MOSCOW (R) — Police dispersed a small protest by Communists in Moscow Sunday but there were no serious demonstrations in the city to mark the 76th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution, once the holiest of Soviet holidays.

Around 300 demonstrators waving red flags gathered near central Oktyabrskaya Square but were almost immediately pushed back into an entrance of nearby underground railway station.

"Disperse, or we will use tear gas and water cannon," police using megaphones told the mainly elderly demonstrators, who responded by shouting "fascists."

Interfax news agency said several people were detained for public-order offences.

One of the demonstrators told the crowd there would be a meeting in Moscow's northern Medvedkovo Forest, outside the city boundaries, later in the day to mark the anniversary.

All protests in the capital had been banned Sunday in the wake of an armed rebellion by parliamentary supporters against President Boris Yeltsin, last month in which 150 people died.

A handful of people waving red flags gathered by the entrance to Red Square but were prevented by police from going any further.

Security Minister Viktor Yerin said Saturday security forces would crush any disorder, saying he had received information about possible

attempts to destabilise Moscow and other towns.

Interfax said small groups of Communists had demonstrated in the Siberian cities of Chita, Krasnoyarsk and Yakutsk.

The biggest Communist grouping had asked its members not to hold any rallies or demonstration to prevent provocation.

Nov. 7, the anniversary of the 1917 Bolshevik Revolution, was traditionally the day when Soviet soldiers, tanks and missiles poured through Red Square in a show of military strength.

But with the collapse of the superpower, the day has lost its significance. Shops and offices have been allowed to choose whether to treat the day as a holiday or not.

Mr. Yeltsin said Saturday he wanted to serve out his term until 1996, apparently changing his mind about holding presidential elections next June.

Interfax quoted him as saying he would not stand again in 1996. "Everybody knows how many blows of fate I have already suffered. It is too much for one man," he said.

The apparent reluctance of Mr. Yeltsin to put his mandate to the test yet again could be seized upon by opposition groups which accuse him of dictatorial methods.

Former Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev told an international television audience Saturday that President Yeltsin should keep his promise and hold presidential elections in June.

Mr. Gorbachev, interviewed

we will issue a final list of those parties and blocs who will be allowed to take part," the spokesman said.

The only surprise was that the August Bloc of dollar millionaire businessman Konstantin Borovoi failed to gather enough valid signatures.

A statement by the Bloc said that although it had a total of 183,000 signatures, about half of them had been obtained illegally, Interfax News Agency said.

Parties and blocs were only allowed to obtain individual signatures on the street, but Mr. Borovoi said he was sure every party except Russia's Choice had cheated in the way they compiled their lists.

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Mr. Gorbachev, interviewed

on CNN's Larry King Live, was asked about reports from Moscow that Mr. Yeltsin intended to serve until his term ends in 1996.

Mr. Yeltsin did not cancel a decree setting early presidential elections for next June. But remarks he made Saturday in Moscow suggested he was counting on a new-style parliament, to be elected on Dec. 12, to support his bid to remain in office.

"I favour the presidential mandate being used to the full, until 1996," Interfax News Agency quoted Mr. Yeltsin as telling Russian media bosses at a Kremlin meeting.

Mr. Gorbachev told interviewer King:

"After he (Yeltsin) said that, I understand that in the evening there was an interpretation... given to that by his chief of staff... he said the president was perhaps misunderstood, that he might perhaps decide that it is for the new parliament to decide." Mr. Gorbachev said through an interpreter.

"My viewpoint is that he should do as promised, I think he will only win as a result of keeping his promise."

Asked whether Mr. Yeltsin would win a presidential election, Mr. Gorbachev said it was too early to say but that much would depend on the government's economic policies.

"This depends on how things evolve," he said. "And what kind of policy will be followed by the government after the parliamentary elections. A lot will hinge on that."



Moscow riot police arrest a demonstrator after a rally to mark the 76th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution (AFP photo)

Croats, aided by Serbs, fend off Bosnia army attack; U.N. troops freed

TISOVCI, Bosnia (Agencies)

— Three Swedish U.N. soldiers taken hostage by Serb forces were released Sunday after a tense standoff near Vares in central Bosnia, a U.N. officer in the area said.

Major Hakan Birgir, company commander of the Nordic Battalion in Vares, told Reuters that Serb forces had abducted the three soldiers Sunday morning at a checkpoint near Dastansko, southeast of Vares. "Everyone is safe," Maj. Birgir said.

Before the release, Swedish soldiers at Dastansko fired 20 mm cannon rounds repeatedly, which they said were aimed at warning nearby forces. One Swedish officer appealed over his radio for air support, and aircraft appeared twice, screaming low over the area. Croats, aided by Serbs, fend off Bosnian army attack

The Three Swedish U.N. peacekeepers were abducted Sunday by unknown assailants

as they apparently tried to calm a messy Muslim-Croat-Serb confrontation north of Sarajevo.

The Swedes were seized, after a Serb or Croat officer was wounded by a ricochet from shots fired by Nodic peacekeepers, said Swedish spokesman Jonas Mauritzson in Stockholm.

The U.N. troops were moving in after up to 300 Bosnian Croat soldiers received help from their former Serb foes Saturday to stave off an attack by Muslim-led government forces at Dastansko.

Dastansko is about three miles (five kilometres) east of Vares, a strategic town 35 kilometres north of Sarajevo that fell to Muslim-led government forces last week.

Serb forces control the territory east of Dastansko and weighed in with artillery to help the Croats, said U.N. spokesman Lt.-Col. Bill Aikman in Sarajevo. Fighting subsided overnight.

Col. Aikman said on Sunday, the Croats sought a meeting with their foes under the auspices of U.N. forces, said Squadron Leader David Fillingham in nearby Kiseljak.

At least 5,000 refugees from Vares are now housed in eight schools in Kiseljak. A further 5,000, most of them Croats, are still in forests in government-controlled territory east of Vares, Squadron Leader Filillingham said.

A top U.N. refugee official, Nicholas Morris, was expected in Kiseljak later Sunday to assess what could be done for the latest victims of Bosnia's war.

The Bosnian government, whose capture of Vares was a rare triumph in its effort to break the 19-month siege of Sarajevo, wants to try to persuade the mostly Croat refugees to go back to their homes in the town. Extremist Bosnian troops looted and burned in Vares last week, and Bosnian police reportedly now have them under control.

Americans know exercise is good — but so what?

WASHINGTON (AP) — Americans know they need to exercise more for good health. But a new survey shows they have no intention of doing it. They're "too tired, too lazy, too busy," said Philip Wietheorn of the president's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports. "Exercise has to be a habit; not, maybe I'll do it this week."

President Bill Clinton asked the council to find ways to get Americans off their couches and moving around. But first, it had to figure out why so many adults — an estimated 60 per cent — are sedentary. So it surveyed 1,018 sedentary Americans last month and found they do have time for some physical fitness — they just don't believe they do.

Sixty-four per cent of those polled said they would like to exercise more because they know it's healthy, but say they can't find the time. They said they had fewer than 10 hours of leisure time every week. But 84 per cent watch television at least three hours a week, meaning they have time for physical activity but are too lazy or prefer television, the survey concluded.

At 41 per cent said they were unlikely to improve anytime soon. Regular exercise lowers cholesterol and blood pressure and helps thwart heart disease and other illnesses. Nobody knows how much disease a sedentary lifestyle actually causes, but the Atlanta-based Centre for Disease Control and Prevention estimates that the nation spends \$5.7 billion annually in medical care and lost productivity for sedentary people with heart disease alone.

10-year-old girl gives birth in Costa Rica

SAN JOSE (AP) — A 10-year-old girl has given birth to a healthy baby girl, becoming Costa Rica's youngest known mother, hospital officials said.

The baby, born by Cesarean section Friday, weighed 2.45 kilograms (5.3 pounds) and was 47 centimetres (18.5 inches) long. Doctor Lucy Sandoval said the girl, who comes from a large homeless family in the capital area, was raped. They are investigating her case.

Psychologists and social workers concerned about the emotional impact of childbirth and motherhood at such an early age reportedly are working with the young mother.

Doonesbury 'blacked out' in fire region

LOS ANGELES (R) — Major newspapers in southern California announced Saturday they will not run six new Doonesbury cartoons because of their "inappropriate, humour" in dealing with the California fires. The newspapers include the three largest publications in the region the Los Angeles Times, the Orange County Register, and the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Cartoonist Gary Trudeau, who created the popular comic strip which is run in newspapers all over the world, depicts a Malibu couple who panic when they think their neighbour's house has caught on fire, but the blaze turns out to be coming from an overheated barbecue grill. Barbecuing is a quintessential part of life in southern California, which enjoys year round sunshine. Los Angeles Times Associate Editor Narda Zaccino, said old Doonesbury strips would be run next week "because the humour in the (new) strip does not seem appropriate at this time."

A wildfire in Malibu which started Tuesday killed three people and destroyed 350 homes, many of them multi-million dollar mansions, including those belonging to actors Sean Penn and Ali McGraw.

Man kills son, feeds him to crocodiles

HARARE (AFP) — A peasant from Zimbabwe's eastern border town of Mutare killed his 19-year-old mentally ill son and threw him into a crocodile-infested river, police said Sunday. In a statement, police said the 46-year-old man confessed to having recently killed his son, and with the help of his wife carried the body in an empty grain bag and left the corpse in the local Save River. Police have arrested the man, who is thought to have committed the act because he wanted to conceal his son's mental illness.

Georgian rebels may turn to guerrilla warfare

TBILISI (AFP) — Georgian forces won a major victory over rebels led by Zviad Gamsakhurdia when they captured his west Georgian stronghold Zugdidi, but his resistance might not be over.

There was rejoicing here Sunday in the Georgian capital. For both government forces and President Eduard Shevardnadze's political supporters, the troops entry into Zugdidi Saturday was the symbolic victory they had sought for years.

It appeared to end the political ambitions of Mr. Gamsakhurdia, Georgia's former president who was ousted by a military junta in January 1992 and had hoped to return to power.

But in opting to flee Zugdidi almost without a fight, Mr. Gamsakhurdia and his forces wanted not only to spare the population who had backed them faithfully for two years, but also to give themselves a chance to withdraw with their arms and equipment to neighbouring Abkhazia.

The opinion poll, conducted by Integrated Marketing Research, also shows that support for President F.W. De Klerk among black voters was less than two per cent.

NP support among its white electorate had plummeted to 40 per cent and a significant portion of coloured (mixed-

race) and Indian voters, regarded as prime targets by the NP, are still unsure about whom they should support.

The Liberal Democratic Party, the hardline Pan Africanist Congress, the South African Communist Party would all score between 0.6 per cent and 2.4 per cent.

On the basis of the poll, according to the newspaper, and assuming a voter turnout of 80 per cent, the NP and the alliance would be able to claim four seats each in the proposed 30-member cabinet of national unity.

The ANC, with 60 per cent of the vote, would qualify for 19 cabinet posts. ANC leader Nelson Mandela would become president and the organisation would be able to appoint a deputy president and claim a two-thirds majority in the cabinet.

The NP, as the second largest party, would have Mr. De Klerk serving as other deputy president and four cabinet posts. The alliance would have

making a sacrifice of the national interests in league with outside forces," the newspaper added.

The United States and North Korea are continuing informal talks in New York after earlier rounds of high-level contacts collapsed over the nuclear issue.

The Sunday Times reported that the United States has drawn up plans for a missile attack on North Korea's secret nuclear facilities.

"There have been a series of crisis meetings in the Pentagon and in the White House to discuss contingency plans for the defence of South Korea, including a limited strike on the North's nuclear facility with cruise missiles," the paper said, citing no sources.

It did not say where the cruise missiles would be fired from.

On Saturday, a senior Pentagon official who asked to stay anonymous, spoke of fears that North Korea might become so alienated by its isolation that it could launch an attack on South Korea.

The official said 70 per cent of North Korea's 1.1 million-strong armed forces, were present in the border region between Pyongyang and the demilitarized zone, reflecting an increase in troop concentrations in the area over the past three years.

Japan, S. Korea open new chapter of friendship

KYONGJU, South Korea (Agencies) — Japan and South Korea Sunday exorcised the spirit of mistrust from their relations, pledging friendship and renewed bids to solve a row over North Korea's nuclear programme through dialogue.

Japanese Prime Minister Morihiro Hosokawa and South Korean President Kim Young-Sam ended two days of talks during which Japan offered its deepest apology yet for colonial misdeeds in Korea and Seoul promised to overcome anti-Tokyo resentment.

North Korea's nuclear threat was a dominant theme of Saturday's round of talks at a lakeside retreat outside this ancient Korean capital.

South Korea and Japan normalised ties in 1965 but older Koreans still have bitter memories of the colonial period.

President Kim told the news conference Sunday they had agreed to try to resolve the issue through dialogue rather than by international sanctions.

"Although I do not know the direction of (United Nations) sanctions against North Korea relating to its nuclear problem, we agreed it is important to try to solve the issue through dialogue as far as possible," Mr. Hosokawa said.

Prime Minister Hosokawa and I have agreed to endeavour to overcome the problems of the past through a rational assessment of history, and to pave the way for truly becoming close and cooperative neighbours," Mr. Kim

N. Zealand in political crisis after poll

WELLINGTON (R) — New Zealand's political system was plunged into crisis Sunday after a general election left the country with a lame-duck government that will not know for at least 10 days if it can remain in office.

Saturday's hung parliament was the worst possible result for New Zealand's financial markets, which appear set for a major sell-off of the New Zealand dollar and stocks when markets open Monday morning.

"Of all the realistic potential outcomes that we were contemplating, this clearly is the worst case outcome because it creates both short and long term uncertainty," said investment strategist Giro Karaagacu.

Political columnist Colin James said: "It's a parliament that cannot be dominated by any one party... I think Jim Bolger's lame duck."

Prime Minister Bolger told reporters he would hold a weekly cabinet meeting Monday as usual, but made the unusual confession that it would not take any decisions.

His conservative National Party won 49 of parliament's 99 seats in Saturday's election, losing 20 seats, while the centre-left Labour Party won 46, leaving the balance of power — four seats — in the hands of two minor parties.

New Zealand politics will be effectively frozen for about 10 days until some 200,000 special votes, those cast before election day or by expatriates, can be counted.

Previous elections have seen seats change hands because of special votes.

Saturday's election was so close that several seats were won by just a few hundred votes and they could easily change once special votes are included.

Mr. Bolger appeared to adapt quickly Sunday to his new role as caretaker prime minister, agreeing New Zealand's political map had changed dramatically.

"It's very obvious that there's no party with a majority in parliament. What I want to do is to assure the world that New Zealand is a stable democracy. They shouldn't panic," he said in remarks apparently aimed at financial markets.

Mr. Bolger telephoned other party leaders late Saturday and Sunday to explore the possibility of working together, but he excluded the possibility that he would seek to form a coalition government.

"All four parties have different perspectives on issues. But no party is going to get its way on everything now," he said.

Arcangues scores huge Breeders' Cup upset

ACADIA, Calif. (R) — European longshot Arcangues consider past-tiring horses in the stretch of the \$3 million Breeders' Cup Classic Saturday to score the biggest upset in the history of the championship series.

The 5-year-old Arcangues, the longest shot in the classic field at 133-1, salvaged the day for a European contingent that was facing a shutout for the second straight year at the Breeders' Cup.

It was the biggest upset in the history of North America's richest race, capping a day of tight racing before a sun-drenched crowd of over 55,130 at sunsplashed Santa Anita Park. Arcangues, the winner of a group one race at Longchamp in Paris in May, paid \$269.20 for a \$2 win bet.

The Allez France stables victory dashed American hopes of a second straight sweep in the cup as all six earlier races were taken by American horses, five of them by runners based in California.

Under jockey Jerry Bailey, Arcangues turned on the speed in deep stretch to beat Bertrand, the California horse that led most of the way in the 1 1/4-mile run. Florida-bred Kis-ki Kris finished third.

Arcangues jockey Jerry Bailey said even he was shocked by the horse.

"He's a different horse than I worked out this week. He's got a heart as big as that track," he said. As Bailey ran into the jockey's room, he shouted, "I'm buying."

Arcangues' trainer Andre Fabre said, "this is the capper. We've been coming to these races for years and this one taught us all off guard."

Bailey admitted after the race that he could hardly understand Fabre's pre-race instructions and wasn't even sure how to pronounce his horse's name.

The Europeans had done so badly prior to the classic, the final race of the seven-race



Jockey Chris McLarion (right), riding Bien Bien, looks at jockey Keat Desormeaux (left), riding Bien Bien in the \$2 million turf race of the Breeders' Cup Saturday (AFP photo)

championship series, that American horses even won both grass races, with Lure winning the mile and Kotashan grabbing the turf.

In the \$2 million turf, Kotashan, bred in France but unraced in Europe, sprinted for the win after lagging back in the pack for most of the race. Bien Bien took second. Luazur, also bred in France, but owned by an American, dropped to third after leading much of the way.

Kotashan jockey Kent Desormeaux said he expected a battle with Bien Bien, whom the 5-year-old had lost to twice this year. "Today when I came to Bien Bien my horse was really strong and I said 'oh my God, bold on Kotashan.'"

U.S. based-trainer Richard Mandella said Kotashan, newly sold to Japan's Lex Syndicate, will probably run the Japan Cup next month in Tokyo.

Lure, the defending mile champion, had recovered from a bad start to rush past a 13-horse field and grab the \$1

million Breeders' Cup Mile. Under jockey Mike Smith, the four-year-old colt drifted five wide in the first turn, but recovered to clock a 1:33.58 time for a grass race that included a host of European challengers. Lure, the heavy favourite of the crowd, paid \$4.60 to win on a \$2 ticket.

Ski Paradise, a French challenger also saddled by Fabre, placed second in the mile, one-and-a-half lengths back.

Lure's rider, Mike Smith, said he wasn't worried about being taken five wide in the first turn. "He may not be the classic mile-and-a-half turf horse, but no one can beat him going a mile. 1 mile means one," Smith said.

In the track stretch I knew we bad it won. I was just handing him all the time," he added.

Britain's Barathea nearly took a tumble in the first turn, going wide and pushing fellow British colt Catrail and France's Bigstone far outside.

Barathea recovered to finish

fifth and Bigstone was sixth, but Catrail ran a disappointing 12th.

Barathea jockey Gary Stevens said, "It's basically a sprint race and don't forget we're going a different way than he's used to."

Earlier, favourite Hollywood Wildcat took the \$1 million distaff, just edging defending champion Faseana by a nose in a 1 1/4-mile race. Hollywood Wildcat's jockey Eddie Delahoussaye said he dropped his whip in the stretch before closing strong.

In the \$1 million juvenile fillies 1 1/16-mile race, phone chatter nipped favourite Sardula by a nose in a tight finish. France's Coup De Genie finished fourth.

In the \$1 million sprint, French-owned seven-year-old Cardania stole a victory, coming from the middle of the pack to win at the wire.

The winner of the \$1 million juvenile was Brocco, a California based two-year running for only the third time, leaving favourite Dehere far back.

Barathea recovered to finish

Prost says goodbye to Formula One

Senna wins Australian Grand Prix

ADELAIDE, Australia (R) — Four-time world champion Alain Prost said goodbye to 13 years of Formula One racing Sunday, opting for family life in preference to another season in the fast lane.

"I will feel a bit more free. My life should be a little better," the Frenchman said after finishing second in Australia on his favourite circuit in his 19th and final Grand Prix.

Known as "the professor" for his studious and pragmatic driving style, the 38-year-old Prost walks away from Adelaide with the 1993 World Championship, which he clinched in Portugal on Sept. 26.

Prost, who quit Formula One racing for a season two years ago, has promised this time that there will be no return and that he wants to spend more time with his wife and two sons at their home in Switzerland.

"I am quite happy to change and maybe I will be much much happier or maybe not. I really don't know. But for sure



Ayrton Senna waves the Brazilian flag on his victory lap after winning the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide Sunday (AFP photo)

my life will be different," he told reporters.

Sunday's race was not quite a perfect finale because he finished second behind long-time bitter rival Ayrton Senna. The fiery Brazilian won comfortably to end the season with five wins, compared with

Prost's seven.

"It was difficult for me before the start," he said. "I kept thinking it was the last time I would put on my gloves and the last time I was doing everything."

Sunday's race also marked a milestone in the often volatile six-year relationship between Senna and Prost, who drew to a close amid a vague reconciliation of another year in racing.

"I think we've had a good time," Prost said, referring to Senna. "Because I'm retiring I think it's good to remember the good times we've had."

Senna was equally cordial, if not sentimental. "Today is the end of an era, for him and for me," he told reporters. "We were both on the podium after the race. It's just as well we had the opportunity to wish each other good."

Frost is scheduled to go to France for some promotional work before heading to his home to Switzerland, where he plans some quality time with two sons, aged 13 and three.

"I never had a normal life with my family," he said.

He leaves behind several world records, including 51 Grand Prix wins and the most points in the history of Formula One at 798. He is also the only Frenchman to win a Formula One World Championship.

Damon Hill of Britain was third in the second Williams-Renault.

Such honours have safely landed the soft-spoken driver a

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF & TANIA REINHOLD
CITYSIS Television Studios, Inc.

LACERTA IN ESTONIA
that event.

South's one club opening was artificial and forcing, showing 16 points or more. The rest of the auction proceeded naturally, although it would appear that North-South need a mechanism for penalizing the opponents at low levels. A double of one heart would have paid handsomely and there was nowhere for East-West to run, let alone hide.

Against three no trump West led a fourth-best spade. Declarer played low from dummy and, had East won the king, it would have been an off-dummy defense to defeat the contract. A small shift to the jack of clubs, covered by the queen and taken with the ace, East overtook West's club return and declarer must hold up. Now a diamond shift must the defenders five tricks.

All that turned out to be mere speculation—East followed with the eight of spades to the first trick! Declarer won and, not surprisingly, continued by taking the "marked" finesse of the jack of spades. When it lost, not even Houdini could conjure up nine tricks.

The breakup of the Soviet Union has had a dramatic effect on the World Bridge Federation. Several of the former independent states applied for membership and will be voting in the 1993 European Championships. This hand is from Russia's Team to select a team for

the European Team to select a team for

NEWS IN BRIEF

'PLO wants more than 23,000 policemen'

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has proposed to set up a 23,850-strong armed police force plus an intelligence wing for the five-year interim period of autonomy in the occupied territories, a newspaper reported Sunday. A national security force of 16,200 men should have helicopters, patrol boats, mortars and machineguns to protect border crossings, the coastline, public buildings and institutions, according to the daily Haaretz. Nizar Amar, security chief of the main PLO group Fatah, presented the plan to Israeli negotiators at autonomy talks in the Egyptian Red Sea resort of Taba, the paper said. Six thousand men would be posted to the Gaza Strip, 1,800 to Jericho and the rest of the West Bank. Under the Sept. 13 autonomy deal Israeli troops are to withdraw from Gaza and the West Bank town by April 13. An ordinary police force of 7,650 men would patrol the roads and maintain order — 4,000 on the West Bank, 3,000 in Gaza and 650 in Jericho. The strength of the proposed intelligence branch was not specified. Haaretz said, it would protect Palestinian officials.

Israel wants U.S. to pay for redeployment

TEL AVIV (AFP) — Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will ask the United States for up to \$500 million to pay for the army's redeployment under autonomy in the occupied territories, a newspaper reported Sunday. Mr. Rabin, who leaves on Wednesday for a 10-day visit to Washington, wants the money on top of the \$1.8 billion of annual U.S. military aid, Haaretz said. Israel also receives \$1.3 billion each year in U.S. civilian aid. Army chief-of-staff Ehud Barak has told a parliamentary committee that the redeployment would cost between \$175 million and \$220 million. But Haaretz said Mr. Rabin would ask for between \$300 and \$500 million.

'PLO arrests another Mossad spy'

MANAMA (AFP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) has arrested another suspected spy for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad, the Saudi newspaper Al Sharq Al Awsat reported Sunday. Quoting Palestinian sources, it said Mohammad Sadeh, was in charge of PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat's radio service. He "surrendered" of his own free will to the PLO leader and confessed to working for the Israeli intelligence service Mossad, the sources told the newspaper. They gave no date for his arrest. A PLO committee is already investigating one of its senior officials in Tunis, Adnan Hassan Yassin, for allegedly spying for Mossad. His son Hani has also been arrested.

3 Israeli-allied militiamen wounded

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Guerrillas attacked an outpost manned by Israeli-backed militiamen in South Lebanon Sunday. Security sources said three militiamen were wounded. They said the attackers fired rocket-propelled grenades against the hilltop position of Souwaida, destroying an armoured personnel carrier of the Israeli-affiliated South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia. All those wounded in the assault were aboard the armoured personnel carrier, said the sources. They said Israeli gunners and SLA militiamen struck back with an artillery barrage on guerrilla hideouts in Iqlim Al Tuffah facing Souwaida in the central sector of a self-styled "security zone" Israel occupies in South Lebanon.

Yemeni parliament trying to reconcile leaders

SANAA (R) — The Yemeni parliament is trying to solve the political crisis caused by a longstanding disagreement between President Ali Abdullah Saleh and Vice-President Ali Salem Al Beidi. An official newspaper said Sunday. The official newspaper Al Thawra said a special parliamentary committee formed on Friday would meet political and military officials to try to reconcile the two men.

Iraq discloses vital information to U.N.

BAHRAM (AP) — Iraq has disclosed vital information about its covert uranium enrichment programme, a U.N. nuclear expert said Sunday. Richard Hooper, who arrived here from Iraq earlier Sunday, said the new information he had obtained closed "one of the big holes" about Iraq's secret nuclear weapons programme, exposed after the 1991 Gulf war. Mr. Hooper, an American working with the Vienna-based International Atomic Energy Agency, said the new information was related to foreign assistance which enabled Iraq to enrich uranium to weapons-grade levels using special centrifuges. Mr. Hooper gave no details about the new disclosures.

U.S. denies betrayal of Iraqi coup plot

MANAMA (AFP) — The United States embassy in Bahrain on Sunday denied that U.S. officials had betrayed a plot to assassinate Iraqi President Saddam Hussein in July. It issued a statement from the State Department saying: "The charge that the United States government or any of its officials provided the government of Iraq any leak or indication whatsoever leading to the arrest of coup plotters is completely false and without any foundation whatsoever. "While we would not normally comment at all on stories about intelligence matters, this accusation is so baseless and harmful that it must be denied."

Algerian paper blasts U.N. Sahara envoy

ALGIERS (R) — An Algerian newspaper urged the United Nations Sunday to sack its special envoy for Western Sahara, describing his behaviour as unacceptable. The independent Al Watan accused Saharawis Yaqub Khan of discrimination against the Polisario Front which seeks independence in the desert territory claimed by Morocco. "He spends five days in Rabat, four hours in the Saharan refugee camps, before returning to the Moroccan capital to attend the anniversary of the 'green march,'" the newspaper said. Saturday was the anniversary of a Nov. 6, 1975 march when Morocco sent thousands of its citizens carrying green flags into the former Spanish colony to back its claims to the area.

Kuwait plans death penalty for hijacking

KUWAIT CITY (AFP) — Kuwait is planning to introduce the death penalty for plane hijackings which result in deaths, the newspaper Kuwait Times reported Sunday. The government, in a draft law, also called for life imprisonment for hijackers found guilty of hostage-taking, causing injuries or inflicting damage to public property.

189 Kuwaiti policemen accused since liberation

KUWAIT (AP) — Some 189 policemen have faced accusations of rape, robbery, unlawful arrest and accepting bribes in the past 2½ years, a government official was quoted Sunday as saying. Colonel Abdullah Adas, an Interior Ministry official, told the English-language daily Arith Times the high number was due to the "young ages of new men on the force and lack of experience." Kuwait has faced a shortage of qualified candidates for the police because it fired many of the statics. Arabs who used to form the bedrock of the police force.

Gunmen kill policeman in Aswan

ASSUIT (AP) — Suspected Muslim militants shot to death a policeman and wounded an eight-year-old child in the southern city of Aswan on Sunday in the latest of a spiral of attacks on security forces. This is the second incident by suspected Muslim militants in a week in Aswan, a major tourist site on the Nile River resort 700 kilometers south of Cairo.

Self-rule talks resume in Cairo today

CAIRO (Agencies) — Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat announced here Sunday that the Palestinians agreed to resume autonomy negotiations with Israel, but in Cairo, away from the glare of publicity, rather than Egypt's Red Sea resort of Taba.

Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa told reporters the negotiations would reconvene on Monday.

The negotiations, Mr. Arafat told reporters after meeting President Hosni Mubarak, are to "resume very soon in Cairo." But he had declined to give a date for a new round of the talks, which the PLO broke off last Tuesday.

PLO's chief negotiator Nabil Shaath said the date was being withheld to avoid publicity and advance the talks at the table rather than through the media. But Israel Radio, also saying

the talks would reconvene, disclosed Monday as the date before the announcement from Mr. Musa.

The decision to return to the talks was taken because of the results of Mr. Musa's visit to Israel last week, Mr. Arafat said, adding that Israel appeared ready to reconsider its stand on a withdrawal from Gaza.

Mr. Musa had voiced optimism the talks would restart after meeting Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Foreign Minister Shimon Peres.

The Palestinian delegation quit the autonomy talks after accusing Israel of trying to renege on a commitment to withdraw all its troops from the Gaza Strip.

Israel proposed to pull back troops to three areas around Jewish settlements on the strip,

voicing security concerns, while the Palestinians demanded a "general military withdrawal."

Mr. Arafat said the Cairo negotiations would be undertaken by an "ad hoc committee," which Dr. Shaath said would comprise four members of each delegation and focus on Israel's "concept of security."

"The Israelis are using the security of the settlements as a pretext to hold on to 170 of the 360 square kilometres that make the area of Gaza," he said.

Mr. Arafat said the dispute was the result of an "Israel misinterpretation" of the autonomy accord signed on Sept. 13.

Asked if the Israelis had made any concessions to bring the Palestinians back to the negotiating table, Mr. Arafat

said: "No concessions."

The heads of the Palestinian and Israeli negotiating teams in Taba, Dr. Shaath and Major-General Amnon Shahak, will lead the teams made up of other negotiators from Taba.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told Israeli Radio on Saturday night that the negotiations would resume this week on early Israeli withdrawal from Gaza and Jericho, part of the Sept. 13 self-rule deal.

"Gaza-Jericho first" is part of a wider deal on Palestinian self-rule in the occupied territories. The deal specifies a five-year interim period before both sides negotiate the final status of the territories.

Asked if the negotiators had run into problems over interpreting the declaration of principles, Mr. Arafat said: "No, the agreement was very clear.

It talked about withdrawal while they (the Israelis) are now talking about redeployment."

Palestinians say Israeli proposals to police heavily Jewish settlements in Gaza and secure main roads to and from them into Israel and control the external borders of Gaza and Jericho contradict the agreement.

"We hope the talks will start on Monday," said Israeli spokesman Gad Ben-Ari, adding that Israel was still waiting for a formal announcement from the Palestinians.

"The talks in Taba take place in front of the camera. The fact that every two hours negotiators have to come out and make statements doesn't help to reach significant progress at the pace we would have

(Continued on page 5)

Killing of settler triggers rampage

OCCUPIED WEST BANK (Agencies) — Hundreds of Israelis went on the rampage on the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank after suspected Palestinian hardliners wounded a settler leader and killed his driver on Sunday.

The violence erupted after assailants pumped 20 bullets into a van carrying a founder of the Gush Emunim settler movement, which believes Israel should annex the occupied territories.

Three Palestinians were shot and wounded and about a dozen beaten before soldiers restored order.

Settler leaders announced they would put up roadblocks across the occupied territories for three hours early Monday in protest at the killing.

The Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas claimed responsibility for the attack in wall graffiti at Rafah and military sources said the operation bore their hallmark.

However, in Damascus, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, which rejects the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) autonomy deal as does Hamas, also claimed responsibility.

Settlers assailed Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's peace moves with Palestinians,

Troops launched a massive manhunt.

In reprisals more than 20 Palestinians were injured in the occupied territories, correspondents reported, despite appeals for calm from the army and government.

"The government is determined to pursue even more intensively the peace process as if terrorism did not exist and the fight against terrorism as if there was no peace," Environment Minister Yossi Sarid said.

On the Gaza Strip angry settlers burnt down an Arab

house at Dier El Balah, blocked roads, smashed cars windows, torched greenhouses and tried to set a school and a petrol station ablaze.

At least 10 Gazans were taken to hospital after being beaten or stoned.

The army clamped a curfew on Palestinians in Hebron as settlers rampaged through the streets firing in the air, overturning Palestinian market stalls, and damaging dozens of cars, witnesses said.

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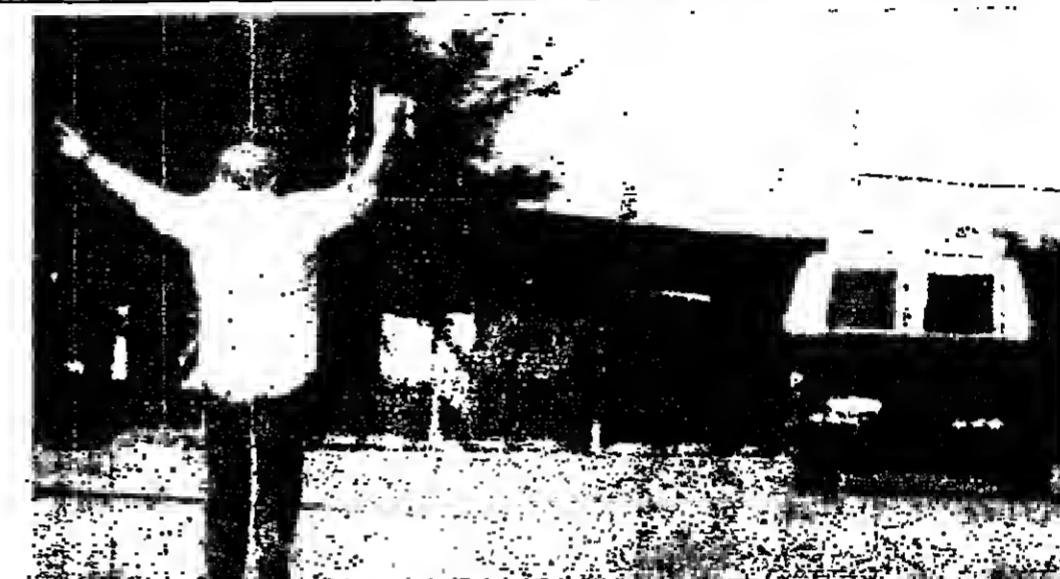
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On the Gaza Strip angry settlers burnt down an Arab



A Jewish settler waves with his gun at a Hebron street after the death of a Gaza settler, who was killed in an attack near Hebron Sunday (AFP photo)

moves would go on while the government continued striking at hardliners.

Soldiers closed off villages in the area of the shooting to search for the attackers and declared curfews in Hebron to ward off settler protests.

Outside Hebron, students led settlers blocking the main road near where Sunday's shooting took place and similar protests were held on the Tel Aviv to Jerusalem, Ramallah to Nablus and Khan Yunis to Gaza City roads.

The violence led the cabinet to put off a decision expected Sunday to take PLO off its list

of "terror" groups following the autonomy agreement, Israel radio reported.

The killing was the second in the occupied West Bank in as many weeks. The killing of a settler Oct. 29 set off almost a week of riots. Two other civilians and two soldiers have also been killed since the peace agreement was signed Sept. 13, as well as 15 Palestinians.

Violence in the occupied territories poses the greatest threat to the Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, stalled over the extent of an Israeli withdrawal from the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank of Jericho.

Libya asks Switzerland to try Pan Am suspects

CAIRO (Agencies) — Libya announced Sunday it has officially asked Switzerland to try two suspects in the bombing of Pan Am 103, one day before the U.N. Security Council was due to meet to adopt tougher sanctions against Tripoli.

But the offer, made by the suspects' lawyers, falls short of the West's demand that Libya hand over the two for trial in the United States or Britain and is not expected to affect the Security Council's vote.

Ibrahim Legwell, a Libyan lawyer heading the suspects' 12-member defence team, told the Associated Press that the Libyan Foreign Ministry contacted Swiss authorities on Oct. 27 to make the offer.

Mr. Legwell said there has been no response yet but he expects one in two days.

"We also asked the Swiss authorities to contact the American government to accept our offer," said Mr. Legwell speaking in a telephone interview from Tripoli.

Britain and the United States accuse Abdul Baset Ali Al Megrahi and Al Amin Khalifa Flimah of blowing up the Pan Am Jumbo jet.

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seen by some as dimming hopes of 1948 refugees ever returning home, has raised hopes of individual compensation. Jordanian officials expect few 1948 refugees to leave Jordan even if they can.

UNRWA started operations in May 1950, taking over Red Cross records. Registration of refugee families ended in 1954 and an unknown number of people were never included in the 1.1 million registered refugees in Jordan.

It is the first time the number of applications has risen since the original registration of hundreds of thousands of Palestinian refugees from the 1948 Arab-Israeli conflict.

"Several hundred families have been presenting themselves whom we categorize as unregistered refugees ... who lost their homes as a result of the conflict and had not bothered to register," said Dennis Brown, director of the U.N. Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) in Jordan.

Palestinian refugee families average more than seven people.

The PLO-Israel agreement signed in September, while

applying it strictly to the new applicants to prevent a flood of applicants.

"We have to maintain the integrity of our registration ... it's a very involved process and they have to prove residency in Palestine in 1946 to 1948," Mr. Brown told Reuters.

The 1948 refugees are one of the thorniest issues left for negotiation in final status talks in the PLO-Israel accord.

Israel, however, has agreed to discuss the hundreds of thousands of Palestinians who fled the West Bank and Gaza during the 1967 war.

Since the start of the year, UNRWA has also made its first major change in the refugee registration system since family cards allowing aid were provided in the early 1950s.

The agency now lists the names of dependents instead of only their numbers, updating births, deaths and marriages. Over 100,000 changes were made to the nearly 150,000 families who hold cards for U.N. relief services.